

Serial No. 10/603,594
Amendment Dated:
Reply to Office Action

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3 and is labeled Replacement Sheet.

REMARKS

The objection to Figs. 1 and 3 have been addressed by amendments to the Specification as well as to Fig. 3 itself. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The objection to Claim 18 has been addressed. Likewise, the rejection of Claims 7 and 8 under 35 USC Section 112, paragraph 2, has been addressed by following the Examiner's helpful suggestion.

The Examiner requires clarification of the language of Claim 18 which has also been rejected under 35 USC Section 112, paragraph 2. Applicant has attempted to address each of the points raised in the Office Action regarding lines 4, 6, 8 and 15 of Claim 18. Reconsideration thereof is also respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claim 18 as being anticipated by Proga under 35 USC Section 102(b) is traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 18, as proposed, recites the location of the overload safety device in the connecting rod where the drive shaft can be directly on it as described in [0016] of the Specification. This promotes both simple construction and reliable operation of the safety device in a manner not suggested by the Proga patent.

The claimed arrangement has several unique advantages for the kind of presses involved, namely huge machines that stamp out automobile body parts and that extend almost to the factory roof. Without the present invention,

stiffness is compromised with slide bridges that measure 3 or 4 meters and in which force limiting devices are provided. In addition, height is compromised as well. Not so with the use of the present invention which does not affect the slide stiffness or the overall height of the machine.

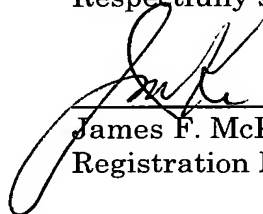
Accordingly, early and favorable action upon Claims 7, 8 and 18 is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080408.52425US).

Respectfully submitted,

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